

# REPORTED SPEECH

- Difference between **direct and indirect speech**.
- Basic reporting verbs – **said and told**
- **Verb changes** from direct to indirect

Direct speech	Indirect speech
<b>Present simple</b> She said, "It's cold."	› <b>Past simple</b> She said it was cold.
<b>Present continuous</b> She said, "I'm teaching English online."	› <b>Past continuous</b> She said she was teaching English online.
<b>Present perfect simple</b> She said, "I've been on the web since 1999."	› <b>Past perfect simple</b> She said she had been on the web since 1999.
<b>Present perfect continuous</b> She said, "I've been teaching English for seven years."	› <b>Past perfect continuous</b> She said she had been teaching English for seven years.
<b>Past simple</b> She said, "I taught online yesterday."	› <b>Past perfect</b> She said she had taught online yesterday.
<b>Past continuous</b> She said, "I was teaching earlier."	› <b>Past perfect continuous</b> She said she had been teaching earlier.
<b>Past perfect</b> She said, "The lesson had already started when he arrived."	› <b>Past perfect</b> NO CHANGE - She said the lesson had already started when he arrived.
<b>Past perfect continuous</b> She said, "I'd already been teaching for five minutes."	› <b>Past perfect continuous</b> NO CHANGE - She said she'd already been teaching for five minutes.

- **Modal verbs** also change:

Direct speech	Indirect speech
<b>will</b> She said, "I'll teach English online tomorrow."	<b>would</b> › She said she would teach English online tomorrow.
<b>can</b> She said, "I can teach English online."	<b>could</b> › She said she could teach English online.
<b>must</b> She said, "I must have a computer to teach English online."	<b>had to</b> › She said she had to have a computer to teach English online.
<b>shall</b> She said, "What shall we learn today?"	<b>should</b> › She asked what we should learn today.
<b>may</b> She said, "May I open a new browser?"	<b>might</b> › She asked if she might open a new browser.

- Other modal verbs don't change:  
**could, would, should, might and ought to.**

Direct speech	Indirect speech
"I might go to the cinema", he said.	He said he might go to the cinema.

- You can use **the present tense** in reported speech if you want to say that something is still true i.e. my name has always been and will always be Lynne so:-

Direct speech	Indirect speech
	<i>She said her name was Lynne.</i>
"My name is Lynne", she said. or	
	<i>She said her name is Lynne.</i>

- You can also use the **present tense** if you are talking about a **future event**.

Direct speech (exact quote)	Indirect speech (not exact)
"Next week's lesson is on reported speech ", she said.	She said next week's lesson is on reported speech.

- Expressions of time** must be changed to fit in with the time of reporting.  
For example we need to change words like **here** and **yesterday** if they have different meanings at the time and place of reporting.

Today	+ 24 hours - Indirect speech
"Today's lesson is on presentations."	She said yesterday's lesson was on presentations.

Expressions of time if reported on a different day	
this (evening)	› that (evening)
today	› yesterday ...
these (days)	› those (days)
now	› then
(a week) ago	› (a week) before
last weekend	› the weekend before last / the previous weekend
here	› there
next (week)	› the following (week)
tomorrow	› the next/following day

- Expression of place.** In addition if you report something that someone said in a different place to where you heard it you must change the place (here) to the place (there).

For example:-

At work	At home
"How long have you worked here?"	She asked me how long I'd worked there.



- **Pronoun change:** In reported speech, the pronoun often changes.

*For example:*

Me	You
<i>"I teach English online."</i>	<i><b>She</b> said she teaches English online.</i>

- **Reporting verbs:**

- *Said, told* and *asked* are the most common verbs used in indirect speech.
- We use **asked** to report questions:-

*For example: I **asked** Lynne what time the lesson started.*

- We use **told** with an object.

*For example: Lynne **told** me she felt tired.*

**!Note** - Here me is the object.

- We usually use **said** without an object.

*For example: Lynne **said** she was going to teach online.*

- If said is used with an object we must include **to** ;

*For example: Lynne **said to** me that she'd never been to China.*

- **!Note** - We usually use **told**.

*For example: Lynne **told** me that she'd never been to China.*

- **Other reporting verbs:**

accused, admitted, advised, alleged, agreed, apologised, begged, boasted, complained, denied, explained, implied, invited, offered, ordered, promised, replied, suggested and thought.

- Using them properly can make what you say much more interesting and informative. *For example: He asked me to come to the party:-*

*He invited me to the party.*

*He begged me to come to the party.*

*He ordered me to come to the party.*

*He advised me to come to the party.*

*He suggested I should come to the party.*

- **Use of that:**

In reported speech, the word **that** is often used.

*For example: He told me **that** he lived in Greenwich.*

However, *that* is optional.

*For example: He told me he lived in Greenwich.*

**!Note** - That is never used in questions, instead we often use *if*.

*For example: He asked me if I would come to the party.*

- **REPORTING VERBS: (STRUCTURES)**

Verb+object +infinitive	verb +infinitive	verb +(that)	verb +gerund	verb +object +preposition +gerund	verb +preposition +gerund
advise	agree	admit	deny	accuse	apologize
encourage	decide	agree	recommend	blame	insist
invite	offer	decide	suggest	congratulate	
remind	promise	deny			
warn	refuse	explain			
	threaten	insist			
		promise			
		recommend			
		suggest			

Examples:	Examples:	Examples:	Examples:	Examples:	Examples:
Jack <b>encouraged</b> me <b>to look</b> for a new job.	She <b>offered</b> <b>to give</b> him a lift to work.	Tom <b>admitted</b> <b>(that) he</b> had tried to leave early.	He <b>denied</b> <b>having</b> anything to do with her.	They <b>accused</b> the boys of <b>cheating</b> on the exam.	He <b>apologized</b> <b>for being</b> late.  She <b>insisted</b> <b>on doing</b> the wash
They <b>invited</b> all their friends <b>to</b> <b>attend</b> the presentation.	My brother refused to take no for an answer.	She <b>agreed</b> <b>(that) we</b> needed to reconsider our plans.	Ken <b>suggested</b> <b>studying</b> early in the morning.	She <b>blamed</b> her husband for <b>missing</b> the train.	